In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Claims 27, 32-33, 37, 39 and 43-44 have been amended.

Please cancel new claims 45-54.

Add new claims 55 and 56.

1-26. Cancelled.

27. (Currently amended) A method for applying a gain characteristic derived from an original sampled device to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a level of gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

applying the thus determined gain characteristic comprises multiplying ~~to~~ the input signal ~~wherein the stored~~by the thus determined gain characteristic~~s comprise at least one~~ and convolving the results with a stored impulse response ~~and the step of applying a gain characteristic to the input signal comprises applying a stored impulse response to the input signal~~.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 in which the gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal is determined in response to a manual input.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which an interpolation between two or more impulse responses is made and applied to the input signal.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 in which a manual input is used to select the impulse responses to be applied.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic derived from an original sampled device to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics at a plurality of different levels;

means for repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

means for determining a level of gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal; and

means for applying the thus determined gain characteristic to the input signal by multiplying ~~wherein~~ the input signal by the determined level of ~~means for storing~~ gain characteristics ~~comprises one~~ and convolving the result with a stored impulse response~~, and means for applying a stored impulse response to the input signal~~.

33. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~Apparatus according to claim 32 including a manual input for a gain characteristic to be applied to an input signal.

34. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 32 including means for interpolating between two or more impulse responses before applying the interpolated response to the input signal.

35. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 34 including a manual input to select the impulse response to be applied.

36. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 32 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

37. (Currently amended) A method for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics of a reference device at a plurality of different levels;

repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal in response to a manual input; and

~~applying~~using the thus determined gain characteristic to retrieve stored data representing said determined gain characteristic and applying said data to the input signal.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

39. (Currently amended) Apparatus for applying a gain characteristic to an audio signal comprising:

means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics of a reference device at a plurality of different levels;

means for repeatedly assessing the amplitude of an input signal;

means for determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal in response to a manual input; and

means for ~~applying~~using the thus determined gain characteristic to retrieve stored data representing said determined gain characteristic and applying said data to the input signal.

40. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 39 in which the gain characteristic corresponds to a gain characteristic of an audio signal processor.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) A method for applying an impulse response to an audio signal comprising the steps of:

storing data representing a plurality of impulse responses relating to a plurality of characteristics of a reference device;

using a manual input to select ~~an~~a stored impulse response to be applied to an input signal; and

applying the selected stored impulse response to the input signal.

44. (Currently amended) Apparatus for applying an impulse response to an audio signal comprising ~~the steps of~~:

means for storing data representing a plurality of characteristics of a reference device;

characteristics of a reference device;

a manual input to select ~~an~~a stored impulse response to be applied to an input signal; and

means for applying the selected stored impulse response to the input signal.

45-54. (Cancelled)

55. (New) A method according to claim 37 wherein the step of storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics comprises storing gain characteristics for at least two reference devices and the step of determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal includes the step of selecting between the at least two reference devices.

56. (New) Apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the means for storing data representing a plurality of gain characteristics stores gain characteristics for at least two reference devices and the means for determining a gain characteristic to be applied to the input signal includes means for selecting between the at least two reference devices.